

A FRIEND who was in the battle at Newbern and fully acquainted with the defenses at that place and the course of the fight, sends us a pen and ink diagram of the battle-ground and its surroundings, which if we could avail ourselves of the services of an engraver we would try to reproduce for the satisfaction and information of our readers.

The Neuse river at Newbern runs nearly from North West to South East. The Trent River, whose general course is from East to West, makes a sudden turn, its course being nearly North at its junction with the Neuse, making an obtuse angle with that river. At the point of this angle formed by the junction of the two rivers the town of Newbern is situated. The Trent River is or was crossed at the town by the railroad bridge and a little above by the county bridge.

The Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad crosses the Trent River nearly at right angles and pursues its way to the coast at Morehead City, nearly parallel with the Southern bank of the Neuse River, but gradually leaving it to the North, the course of the railroad being more southerly than that of the river. The county roads follow more nearly the direction of the Neuse.

The defensive works on the river were Fort Lane, 3 miles below Newbern; Fort Ellis, probably a little over a mile below Fort Lane; Fort Thompson, 5 miles below Newbern, and still further down a little 4 gun battery, which had to be evacuated before the fight, as none of its guns bore on the land, and its little garrison would inevitably have been cut off. Between Fort Ellis and Fort Thompson was a two-gun covered battery manned by a Company from the first Maryland regiment, commanded by Captain Edelin. The obstructions in the river were rather above Fort Thompson, and if the enemy's fleet had obligingly come and placed itself directly in front of the guns of Fort Thompson it would, no doubt, have been badly used up. But the guns of the Fort were so arranged that the fleet could be below at only half a mile off and shell the Fort at their leisure, while but one gun, an old 32 pounder rifled, could be brought to bear upon them.

The defensive line of entrenchments, behind which our forces were drawn up, ran from the river at Fort Thompson, to a swamp, about a mile, the river being on the left, the railroad and the swamp on the right. Resting on Fort Thompson, the line was of course five miles below Newbern. The plan of defense from the river at Fort Thompson to the swamp at the right of the Railroad was that recommended by General Hill, and was no doubt a good one, but it was not carried out, by the omission to mount guns at the points where the Railroad and County road crossed or pierced the entrenchment. Latham's battery was stationed at the county road. Three regiments of troops with the militia held the entrenchments between the river and the Railroad. These regiments were Lee's, Campbell's and Sinclair's. Two regiments were stationed to the rear of the swamp, and to the right of the Railroad, to wit—Avery's and Vance's. The companies of Captains Whitford and Herring were in Fort Thompson. Col. Crossen (Commander of the County Militia) commanded the guns at the Fort.

When the railroad crosses the entrenchments, was a cut. The enemy marched up the railroad, which was neither defended by breastworks nor swept by cannon, (they were going to plant cannon sometime!) got to the rear and on the flank of the militia, who had to give way. The order to retreat was passed down the line from the railroad to Fort Thompson, the companies in which, "General of staff" had happened on the right, were surprised at receiving such an order. The two regiments to the right and rear of the railroad and swamp, had some hard fighting after the order to retreat had become general along the line from the railroad to the river.

As Major Thompson's obstructions in the river amounted to nothing—his torpedoes were not heard of. The gunboats came up one after another right in the main track which the Albemarle always took. Capt. Edelin's Company in the two-gun covered battery next above Fort Thompson could do nothing after the retreat of the whole army below, but take a few random shots at the enemy's fleet as it passed up the river, shelling the woods which covered our retreating forces.

The conclusion of our correspondent is that there was work enough and guns enough below Newbern, to have saved the town, if the work had been properly done, and the guns properly placed, and that the engineer, Major W. B. Thompson, ought to be deprived of, or even sent off, sacrificed for the good of the million people who live in North Carolina, for that before and since the commencement of this war he has done the State more harm than Burnside himself. Our correspondent is not singular in his opinion. What sin our State has committed, or to what fatuity our people are given over that they will spit of everything, clinging to a man like Mr. Thompson, whose only record with us is that of almost inevitable failure and loss to the public, is more than we know or can pretend to say.

There may have been, and no doubt there was an error in the placing of the troops. It may have been, and no doubt was a mistake, to place the militia in such an exposed position; but the main fault was, that cannon were not planned so as to sweep the wide opening in the line there defended by breastworks. With any troops, exposed as the militia were, we suppose retreat was a mere question of time.

We learn from various quarters that General Branch bore himself firmly and bravely as any man could, preserving his coolness and presence of mind and doing all that a man in his circumstances could. It is proper to add that we have by inquiry satisfied ourselves that the militia made a very creditable stand for a comparatively raw and defectively armed body of men.

The first attack of the enemy appears to have been made upon the point where the county road passed through our entrenchments, and this was expected to be the main attack, but the enemy were driven back there by Latham's guns and canister. Subsequently, they made for the opening where the railroad passed through. There was no grape and canister, and the result is known. The engineer was possibly going to put up guns! God gave the State!

IN SERVICE AGAIN.—We were pleased night before last to see our friend W. A. Allen, Esq., of Duplin, who served as Lieutenant in one of the first six months companies, of whom a few were accepted at the beginning. Mr. Allen has raised a fine company in Duplin and is now in with his company for the war. Capt. Kennan, of the Duplin Rifles, is also at the head of another company for the war, and we learn that there is still a third new company just raised in that patriotic county. We see also in service again Captain Starr, of Fayetteville, formerly of the Belhel Regiment, with a fine artillery company. Also Capt. Blocker, who had seen hard service in Western Virginia. We mention these simply as samples, and because we happened to see them all nearly about the same time. In all their companies are men as privates, non-commissioned officers, and lieutenants, who have been through the mill. Captain Starr's company is raised for light artillery service, but, owing, no doubt to a peculiar pressure upon the means of transportation, the battery expected here some time since has not yet arrived, and the captain and his company are in the meantime doing duty as heavy artillery.

Daily Journal, 26th inst.

Death of Our Reporter.

Last evening we were pained to learn by telegraph that the telegraphic agent for the Press, Wm. H. Pritchard, Esq., had died suddenly at Richmond of Diphtheria.

Mr. Pritchard had some few weeks since visited Atlanta, Ga., to be present at the convention of representatives of the Southern Press, and it seems but the other day that he was in our office on his return to Richmond, where he had his headquarters. He was then apparently in full health, and remarkably robust for a man over fifty years of age. It would seem that he contracted a violent cold, which brought on the disease resulting in his sudden death.

Our acquaintance with Mr. Pritchard arose out of his relations to the Press, first as reporter for the former "Associated Press," and since that had ceased to exist, as general telegraphic news agent for the Southern Press, in all of which relations we found him industrious, accommodating and trustworthy. We had grown to regard him as a friend and respect him as a man, and in his death we feel a loss more immediate than the mere disruption of a business arrangement, for we presume that the business will still be carried on by the assistants and upon the system which the deceased had organized. Mr. P. was a Printer himself, as are so many of those connected with the Press in different capacities.

Daily Journal, 26th inst.

We have a communication from a member of the 15th Regiment N. C. T., setting forth reasons for the fact that that regiment has not re-enlisted as have most if not all of the other North Carolina regiments. The writer gives it as his opinion that nearly every member of the "eighteenth" will re-enlist, but not under the present organization. Our correspondent goes on to assign reasons to account for this, but as these might relate to, and indeed do relate to matters of regimental discipline which are differently regarded from different stand-points, the discussion of which, we think, through the Press, at the present time, certainly could do no good and might do harm, we think it best not to publish them at this time. We are satisfied of the correctness of a fact which was never doubted, that the members of the 15th regiment, in their own time and manner, will be found not less patriotic than those of any other regiment from this State. Our knowledge of the material of which the regiment is composed renders it impossible for us to come to any other conclusion.

The Soldiers at Kinston.

We have received a very liberal contribution of fifty dollars from a citizen of this town who has a brother among the sufferers, who writes as follows under date of the 21st instant:—

Dear Brother: I have just returned from a scout. Sgt. Elder, two privates and myself brought in three prisoners. We charged on them within three miles of Newbern. You say "Do my duty." You can rely on that, or I am deceived in myself. I feel no fears at all.

When we retreated from Newbern we saved nothing. All I have in the world is on my back except my equipment, of which I saved all, pistols, gun, sabre, &c. I have been on scout for six days and a worse used up man than I am it would be hard to find. I wish you would send me some drawers, pants and a few other such things as I need. We will pay for these things as soon as we are paid. Just now we are faring awful. No blankets, dirty clothes, and all in all. When I get time I will send you all the particulars. I was on picket one hundred yards from the enemy all night before the fight, in the rain. A. H. H.

We will be pleased to receive any contributions immediately, and turn them over to any committee which may take the matter promptly in hand. Action—instant action! is called for.

We are pleased to learn that our friend Dr. Wm. D. Somers, formerly of Lillingston, New Hanover County, has been appointed Medical Director at LaGrange, Tenn., and ordered to take charge of all buildings suitable for hospital purposes, sufficient to accommodate five hundred patients.

We have no doubt the appointment is a good one, and our friend's advancement eminently merited.

BURNING COTTON.—We learn on the best authority that Peyton Atkinson, Esq., of Pitt County, North Carolina, has already burned eight hundred bales of cotton on one of his plantations, rather than that it should remain liable to the plundering raids of the enemy. When a man thus voluntarily sacrifices over thirty thousand dollars worth of his own property, from a sense of patriotic duty, he gives the most convincing evidence that he belongs indeed to a people who are "terribly in earnest," and will shrink from no sacrifices of private interest that the cause may demand.

Mr. Atkinson is not alone. The patriotic planters of Pitt, Edgecombe, and other exposed counties are determined that none of their cotton shall fall into the hands of the invaders.

ARMY MATTERS.—We are pleased to learn that Capt. Forney George, of Company C, 18th Regiment N. C. T., has been elected Major of that regiment, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Major George Tait. We have no doubt but that the selection will prove to be a most excellent one in every respect.

We are also pleased to learn that Lieutenant John C. McIlhenny has received authority both from the State and Confederate government to raise a light artillery company, and that he has secured a fine battery with the assistance of horses and all necessary arms and equipments. We have no doubt but our young friend will make as dashing a commander of a battery as he has already shown himself to be of a section.

We look for something shortly from the Virginia. We think she will do herself credit, and spread confusion among the enemy's dry bones. She will probably admonish the "Monitor."

IRON CLAD STEAMER FOR THE DEFENSE OF WILMINGTON.—We are requested by James F. Koneguy, Esq., of Wayne county, to state that he will give twenty bales of Cotton, 500 lbs. each, towards the construction of an iron clad steamer for the defense of Wilmington, or any other place in the Confederate States that it may be needed. We learn that other gentlemen in Mr. K's neighborhood will give in proportion to their means, for the same purpose, and if necessary Mr. Koneguy will give one-half of his crop of cotton.

WATCH THE BRIDGES.—Once again we would urge upon all concerned, the necessity of the most untiring vigilance in guarding the bridges on our different railroads, especially the Wilmington and Weldon Road.—An infamous attempt to burn the Railroad bridge over the Trent River at Newbern preceded and preaged the advance of the invading force against that place. There now remains no doubt but that the perpetrator of that attempted atrocity was in the pay of the Federal leaders. The bridge over the Neuse river a short distance this side of Goldsboro' ought to be specially watched.—Who shall say what attempt may not be made to slip noiselessly up that river some of these dark nights and cunningly apply the torch, or rather some other diabolical contrivance for the destruction of the bridge.

LINCOLN'S special message to the Northern Congress is certainly a peculiar document, but it is not different from the suggestions in his regular message. It is humiliating, it is pitiful to witness the pleadings, the beseechings of John J. Crittenden, and other men from slave States, who have still chosen to cast their fate with the North, and against their own section and their own people. They are helplessly tied to the car of Northern aggression, and can only plead for mercy as supplicants, not demand justice as equals.

THE Raleigh Standard comments upon our remark that the military heads of this revolution must be greatly changed, and will be, and the civil ones too. Any body who looks around will see the change that has already been made in the military heads in this State, amounting virtually to a change in toto. Certainly enough to bear out fully our remark made some days ago that the military heads "must be greatly changed, and will be." As for the civil head of the War Department, the Secretary of War, we all know that a change has been made—that, with all respect for the high order of talents possessed by Mr. Benjamin, the cast of his mind fits him better for the legal or diplomatic service of the government than for the War Office, and that a younger man with different habits and training has been appointed and will no doubt infuse more vigor into the administration of all matters connected with our defense. While General Lee's appointment at the seat of government will impart more unity of plan and continuity of action. What Mr. Randolph's former party associations were, we do not know, we do know that Mr. Watts, the new Attorney General, was the leading Bell and Everett man in Alabama during the Presidential election that resulted in the election of Mr. Lincoln by the exclusive Northern vote, and that General Lee was notoriously not a Breckinridge man, nor even what is called an original secessionist. The Standard of course knows, no one better, that when a change in the civil and military heads of this revolution is spoken of, no reference is or can be made to the displacement of President Davis, the constitutionality of which, after all that has been said, could not be replaced, and who, in spite of errors of judgment which supernatural wisdom alone could have avoided, or defects of temper from which no mere man is exempt, has enjoyed and still enjoys the confidence of the people of the South to an extent to which no other man approaches. And while we are on the subject of the civil heads, might it not possibly occur to the Standard that there may be other heads even in this State than those in the Executive offices? With the unlimited powers claimed, and when it suited that body, exercised by the Convention, amounting as the Standard itself asserts to Supreme Legislative, Executive and Judicial Powers, is that body free from responsibility? Claiming and exercising when it pleases, the three supreme powers of the State, is it not a head, or rather three heads—or with no disrespect, might it not be said that it ought to be in one sense a sort of cerberus to watch with all its heads, and it has been in existence from the first secession of the State. If it had given the authority to raise twenty thousand men for the defense of the State exclusively, then, indeed the Governor could have massed them at Goldsboro', or some other convenient point or points, as we have all along urged. We give full credit to the editor of the Standard for having voted for the raising of these twenty thousand men. But it was lost in Convention. If we blame other authorities for dilatoriness certainly the people who have seen the Convention drag its slow length along will not acquit that body of its share of the blame.

We are requested, and we cheerfully comply with the request, to call the attention of the town authorities, the Safety Committee, or the Provost Marshal, to the necessity of requiring that all persons entering, and certainly all persons departing from town by railroad, shall be either identified as trustworthy citizens, or produce a pass from some known authority. This is done in Charleston, Savannah and elsewhere. It surely is no less necessary here. We are at war with a powerful and populous and unscrupulous nation, talking the same language with the people of the Confederate States, perfectly acquainted, many of them at least, with their manners and habits. How easy then is it for spies to pass along undetected—because nobody knows them.—Let that very fact be a cause for investigation. Let all Southern men traveling be prepared to give an account of themselves, and no true man will object to a precaution that is called for by a regard to the safety of the country. Persons who straggle through the South now, and cannot or will not give a satisfactory account of themselves, ought to be brought up standing.

Don't Go Away—Don't Speculate.—That at the approach of a menacing danger, persons who have the opportunity of removing their families should avail themselves of that opportunity, is no more than natural. All the non-combatants that can be removed, the better—at least it can do no harm. But let all the men who have an interest in the town, in the country, in the cause, who can aid in its defense, stay and share the risks with their fellow citizens, and do their duty to the best of their ability, wherever that duty may call them. We know where duty does not call any man. It does not call him to try to make money out of the public distress, to speculate upon the food necessary for the support of families, or the articles of wearing apparel demanded by decency and comfort.—There is surely no heaven for men who would persist in doing so. They surely do not care much for the country on this earth, in which it has pleased Providence to cast their lot, since they could hardly adopt a plan more likely to injure its cause than that which they are pursuing from interested motives. Oh, let this sort of thing stop, both in town and country, for speculation and extortion is not confined to residents of towns by any means. Let us assist, not try to take advantage of each other.

Confederate Notes.—Currency. A gentleman of unquestionable veracity, informed us this morning of a circumstance which requires explanation, and which on the face of it looked like a refusal to take Confederate money on the part of one of our Banks. The facts seem to be that the gentleman wished to obtain small bills—currency, so to speak—for large Confederate bills, and was refused in such a manner as conveyed the impression that the Bank refused to take or discredit Confederate notes. The facts, as given to us by the President of the Bank, are that the reason small bills were not given, was simply that the Bank did not have them to give. Last month, in accordance with the request of Treasurer Courts, the banks commenced gathering in as many Confederate notes as they could, in exchange for their own currency, in order to place them at the disposal of the State Treasury, for the payment of the State's quota of the Confederate war tax, expecting to receive in exchange, State Treasury notes, to be used by them as currency. Treasurer Courts now informs them that he has negotiated State bonds, with certain parties in Richmond, who pay the State's quota there for in Confederate notes, and that therefore he does not want the Confederate notes that the Banks have collected together, and of course, will not make the exchange of State Treasury notes for them to supply the Banks with an available currency to be used for purposes of change. Thus the Banks are unable to make the change for any more large bills. They have not the means to do it. The Bank in question has already got in over eighty thousand dollars of Confederate money and of course would not discredit it, but will take it in all transactions, but from the circumstances above stated is unable to make change. We hear of nobody dreaming of refusing to accept Confederate notes.

TYPE METAL AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR LEAD.—The proportions of antimony and lead in the best type metal are three of lead to one of antimony, but as a general rule the amount of lead is rather more, and of antimony rather less than these proportions would indicate, so that the specific gravity of type metal is about 10.26, while that of lead varies from 11.33 to 11.44. Type metal is therefore of a specific gravity of about nine-tenths that of pure lead.

To Companies Forming and Regiments Organizing.—The Confederacy is now in the crisis of its fate. The time is no doubt a gloomy one. By reason of farlengths on account of re-enlistments—the expiration of limited terms of service of volunteers who have not re-enlisted, and from other causes just as well known to the Federal authorities as to our own Government or people, our forces have, during the last two months, been weaker than at any former period of the war, if we except the first few weeks. We tremble to think how very weak they have been.

But our ranks are filling up and our forces are swelling, both from the return of re-enlisted men who have been absent on furlough, and from the addition of new recruits to the regiments already in service, and from the embodiment of new infantry regiments, and batteries, battalions and corps of artillery and cavalry.

These new recruits join, and these new regiments, companies, etc., form, for the purpose of serving and of saving their country. How can they best contribute to this end? How best carry out their patriotic purpose?

Evidently the first step is to become efficient soldiers at the very earliest possible moment. It will require drill, discipline and a knowledge of military duty in the camp and on the field to make efficient soldiers, and the question is, How shall these qualifications be most readily acquired, this knowledge most speedily gained? Evidently from those who have been drilled and disciplined themselves,—those who have had practical experience of the order and of the duties of the camp.

In each company there are four commissioned officers. Now suppose one company chooses for its commissioned officers men who have been in service long enough to have become perfectly familiar with all the details of military duty, and another company chooses for its commissioned officers men as ignorant of such details of duty as the newly enlisted recruits whom they are to command, who can fail to see at once the great advantage that the first company—that with drilled men for officers—would have over the last with wholly undrilled civilians? The drilled and disciplined officers would soon communicate the lessons of discipline to the whole body of the company, which officers themselves ignorant of drill and discipline could not do. They would necessarily have to learn first themselves, nor would the intervention of drill-masters detailed for the purpose do much towards obviating this difficulty.

And then when companies are thrown together to form a regiment, how important that the regimental officers should be military men of at least some experience, as well as of good judgment. Men who already know their duties and can at once enter on their efficient discharge. Take a regiment with three field officers, ten captains and thirty lieutenants, all already familiar, by experience, with military duty, and the progress made by that regiment towards military efficiency will afford a striking contrast to the comparatively slow progress made by a regiment whose officers, like their men, have to begin at the beginning and learn everything. This reasoning will apply even more forcibly to artillery than to most other branches of the service.

Out of the ranks of the large number of regiments that this State has had in service since last summer surely a selection might be made of men drilled and competent to do great service in organizing and bringing up rapidly to the military standard a large number of newly raised companies and regiments. Without military training we all know that there may be bodies of men got together, but that they cannot be called troops is evident, and troops are urgently wanted and earnestly galled for immediate service, and every moment lost now, is a loss indeed; and much time must be lost, if wholly inexperienced officers are elected to organize and command wholly inexperienced men. Every part of the State where troops are now being raised has good men in our camps in Virginia or elsewhere, filling subordinate positions, who, if chosen to higher ones in newly raised companies or regiments would be allowed to resign or could obtain a discharge at once, in order to enable them to accept such positions. Possibly it might not be practicable to get all the officers from amongst men who have seen service, but surely one field officer in each regiment, and that one, if possible, the highest, ought to be a military man, and at least one commissioned officer in each company.

It is not now as it was at the time when the battle of Manassas was fought, when comparatively undrilled troops could be brought into the field. The Federal troops then were merely a body of men—they were certainly very far from deserving the name, generally, of a disciplined army. They have been drilling and organizing ever since, and they calculate on easily overthrowing our new levies with their thoroughly trained regiments. It is absolutely essential to the safety of the country that these new levies of patriotic citizens should very soon become not only patriotic but effective soldiers, and surely they can best do so by obtaining for their regimental and company officers as many competent men of experience in military service as they well can. It does appear that electing inexperienced men as officers at this time to command inexperienced volunteers, would bear an unfortunate resemblance to the act of putting the blind to lead the blind, the consequence of which is, as the Scripture tells us, that both shall fall into the ditch.

We submit these considerations to the good common sense of our soldiers electing or about to elect company officers, and of our company officers about to elect regimental officers. We confess that they seem to our mind to possess great weight, however they may appear to others—at any rate, we think they are worthy of serious attention, and we would respectfully urge them upon the notice of our newly enlisted companies and regiments.

Things about Newbern.—Facts and Accidents. Evidently the Lincoln government is ungrateful.—After the Reverend Marble Nash Taylor has traitorized enough to sin his stupid little soul away beyond redemption or the hope of redemption, the authorities at Washington have most shamefully neglected that great man, and most unjustly ignored his immense claims as Governor elect of the State of Hatteras by the tumultuous acclamation of forty-three white men and a half, the half being a gentleman supposed to be not more than half white, but fully two-thirds drunk, as indeed were the majority of the Reverend gentlemen's intelligent constituency upon that important and momentous occasion.

An officer pretty generally known along the coast some years ago as Captain Foster of the United States army, and more recently mentioned in connection with the evacuation of Fort Moultrie and the occupation of Fort Sumter by Major Anderson, is now addressed as "Governor" by the Lincoln troops at Newbern. We do not know what Mr. Foster's present military rank may be, but he is said now to be, for the present at least, military Governor of North Carolina by the grace of Abraham Lincoln and the consent of William H. Seward. The Lincolnites have not treated their miserable tools in this State as well as the tools aforesaid expected. C. H. Foster is scouted by the great majority of the Northern people as badly as by the Southern people. He is always spoken of as "the man Foster;" he is a Pariah. Believe us there is hardly a people on earth that can help despising such persons, however, they may sympathize with their treason. The man who, living in a community, would betray those among whom he lived or had lived, would sink himself beneath the level of Hindoo Sepoys, for however cruel they were pictured by the English press, it is certain that treachery to each other in the hour of danger and death could not be added to the list of their offences. At one time during the late outbreak in India the

British authorities in the neighborhood of Peshawar or Mooltan, brought forty natives to be blown from the mouths of cannon. They were thus horribly put to death in squads of ten at a time, the others looking on till their turn came, and yet not one tarred traitor, although a free pardon was offered on condition of making certain disclosures. One man faltered, half turned, then braced himself firmly and placed his back against the muzzle of the gun whose fire was to scatter his remains to the four winds of heaven, in undisturbable fragments.

Among the former citizens of this State, who came out with the Burnside expedition to Newbern, was Mr. Calvin Dibble, pretty well known here and elsewhere throughout the State, especially in the Neuse and Tar River sections. A brother of Calvin Dibble's, Frank Dibble, late of Newbern, had some months ago got a pass to go North under flag of truce. He was to run the blockade, and bring certain articles much needed, especially leather, for a shoe factory in which he was interested with Mr. Washington. He had not returned until very recently, and Mr. Washington's share in the venture is in a bad way, as Mr. Dibble is said to have come in the wake of the invaders, and of course the share of his "rebel" partner in business is confiscated. But Mr. Dibble was too venturesome by half, and was the other night captured by some of our pickets, while piloting a squad of Lincoln's soldiers through the country, in the vicinity of Newbern. So strong is the feeling against Dibble, both among the troops and citizens, that it required all the efforts of those in authority to prevent summary vengeance being taken on him, on his arrival at Kinston. It was deemed unsafe, in the present excited state of feeling, to send him to Salisbury.—Another brother, Harlow Dibble, a resident of Kinston, has also been arrested, on what precise grounds of suspicion, we are not informed. On the person of Frank Dibble, were found papers which led to the arrest of a Captain Day and another captain, both commanding boats, or who had commanded boats belonging to the Dibble family.

Burnside has about six hundred negroes hard at work finishing and perfecting the defensive works that the Confederates had commenced below Newbern, but which, after long months of warning, were unfinished and imperfect. As for the killed and wounded Federals, it is certain that all the Federal soldiers agree in the story of their loss being very heavy, and the concurrent opinion places it at two thousand to three thousand, but most at twenty-five hundred. The Academy Green in which the slain were buried, but for the newness of the mounds, might pass for the cemetery in which generations of a populous town had found their last resting place. From the number of buildings occupied as hospitals for the wounded, the number of casualties must have been very large. It would seem that they have hauled up some one or two of their gun-boats on the marine railway there and are repairing them. They have the railroad machine shop in full blast, but what they are doing in them is not known. We cannot learn that they have made any movement towards Beaufort, or even thrown out pickets to any distance in that direction. A report that Federal troops had been seen at Trenton and at Pollockville, in Jones county, appears to be without foundation. Trenton is the county seat of Jones county, on the Trent river, about twenty-five miles south of Newbern, and Pollockville is also on the Trent river, about half-way between Newbern and Trenton.

Of the most striking incidents and hair-breadth 'scapes connected with the affair at Newbern, as with almost all combats, is one which might be called "a close shave." Captain Latham, the gallant commander of the field battery which went by his name, got shot through various portions of his clothes—once through his hat, more than once through his coat and pants, and once through his whiskers, which it appears were long, full and flowing. Happening to turn his head at some peculiar angle, a minnie ball went whizzing through his beard close to his chin, cutting out the centre and leaving two forks. By the way, the battery which Capt. Latham commanded must of itself have swept off infinitely more men than some accounts represent.

It is difficult to tell whether Burnside is about advancing from Newbern or not. There are so many rumors about that, that he should have said he would do this, that, and the other thing, that there is no knowing what to believe. As a general thing, we doubt the authenticity of any report that represents as skillful a commander as Burnside certainly is, as bragging to all sorts of people what he is about to do. At any rate our pickets can still go close to Newbern, as Mr. Frank Dibble is fully aware of to his own sorrow.

INQUEST.—CORPORAL R. J. Jones held a jury over the body of an unknown man who had been found floating in the Cape Fear, on Saturday evening last, by some fishermen, about 4 miles below town. The body was so much decayed and destroyed by vultures, that the jury was unable to say whether it was that of a white or black man. The jury returned a verdict, "The deceased came to his death from causes unknown, supposed to have been drowned."

For the Journal.

WILMINGTON AND WELDON RAILROAD, March 20, 1862.

EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL.—It is indeed very painful to the heart of every Georgian to see how grossly we of this unprejudiced State have been neglected. The Confederate government is not so much to blame as some imagine; because it is impossible for it to undertake the defence of any State, without the full co-operation of that State. Who then is to blame for our disasters in this part of the Confederacy? Our State authorities are, and should be held responsible by the people of North Carolina. If they are in competent to discharge their duties as public officers, let them give place to others commanding more ability, who will do their duty without fear of censure from any one. But the present is no time to talk. Action! is what the people demand. It is too true that we are neglected by our authorities. If so, let them and the people go to the pushing forward the glorious cause and endeavor to retrieve our lost fortunes. Let us defeat the enemy's plans. His object, doubtless, is to break communication between North and South by seizing this Railroad. His demonstration against Kinston, is probably a feint, wishing to attract our attention at that point and then pounce upon Wilmington. In this his aim is certain, unless we are heavily reinforced at both places. The defence of Wilmington should by no means be neglected; it is the key to the Cape Fear country, and if that falls, then goes Fayetteville and the manufacturing of arms. Then State authorities, be up and doing. People of North Carolina and citizens of Wilmington, look sharp lest we witness the same scenes as were enacted at New Bern.

O! that we had a Bill or a Floyd to command our forces in this State. Too much whiskey has been (almost) our ruin. Then look sharp and repulse the invader.

Respectfully,

NEW HANOVER.

THE VIRGINIA.—Commodore Tattnall received orders Saturday last to repair forthwith to Norfolk and take command of the battering ram Virginia. The whole country will be rejoiced to hear it, and look with confidence to the future operations of the wonderful machine. We regret to lose his services at this post, but for his and the country's sake, we are pleased to see him in a position where he can be available to the latter, and sustain his well earned fame as a naval commander.

Commodore Tattnall leaves here this morning on the theatre of his future labors. He was accompanied by Capt. J. Pembroke Jones, late commander of the Resolute, who will act as his Flag Lieutenant, and his son Paulding Tattnall, as Secretary.

Savannah Republican, 24th inst.

Important Arrival from Abroad! 12,000 Enfield Rifles and 60 Tons of Powder!

Special Correspondence of the Mobile Register. Thursday Morning, March 13th.—At day-break this morning, the fine screw steamer Economie, sailing under British colors, ran into our harbor with an only difficulty whatever. She brings the most valuable cargo that has yet been brought through the blockade, viz: 35,000 stand of arms, including 12,000 Enfield rifles, about 60 tons of gunpowder, and immense stores of blankets, shoes, accoutrements for artillery, medicines and other articles of which our army stands badly in need. This invaluable cargo is the property of the Confederate Government, which chartered the Economie for the trip. This news is perfectly authentic, and the steamer now lies off our wharves.

[We omit the name of the port for prudential reasons.—Ed.]

For the Journal.

MESSRS. FULTON & PRICE.—Some time back, there appeared an article in your paper, by a lady, proposing to build a Navy for the defence of Wilmington. The plan proposed, was that every lady in the Cape Fear region should subscribe one dollar each. No doubt the proposition was with the approval of all who read it; still, no action was taken upon the suggestion.

Now is the time to act; the invader is upon our soil committing depredations upon property, and causing hundreds to flee their homes; blasting the hopes and dashed to the ground the visions of peace and happiness. Great as have been the sacrifices some have made, we must all make still greater if we would achieve our independence. It was by the aid of their gunboats and long range guns that they succeeded in penetrating into the interior. We have seen the wonderful achievements of the iron clad steamer Virginia; we must meet them with more like weapons, iron to iron, steel to steel, if we would drive them out of our borders. Now, we suggest that we go to work, and that a subscription be opened, not only in that region, but in every county in the State; and that some one be appointed in each district to solicit funds, and that there be appointed a Committee to receive and apply them to the building of an iron-clad steamer in Wilmington, if possible, if not, where it may be done in any other place. I will give fifty dollars, I know another lady that will give an equal sum, and others that will give liberally, probably much larger sums.

ONE OF THE WOMEN OF DUPLIN.

Message from Lincoln.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The President today remitted to Congress the following Message: Fellow citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:—I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution by your honorable bodies which shall be substantially as follows:

Resolved, That the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt general legislation abolishing slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid to be used by such State in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private produced by such change of system.

If the proposition contained in the resolution does not meet the approval of Congress and the country, there is the end; but if it does command such approval, I deem it my duty to consider that I will give aid people immediately interested should be at once distinctly notified of the fact, so that they may begin to consider whether to accept or reject it. The Federal Government would find its highest interest in such a measure, as one of the most efficient means of self-preservation. The leaders of the existing insurrection entertain the hope that this Government will be forced to acknowledge the independence of some part of the insurrectionary region, and that all the slave States North of such part will then say:—The Union which we have struggled being already gone, we now choose to go with the Southern section.

To deprive them of this hope substantially ends the rebellion, and the initiation of emancipation completely deprives them of it as to all the States initiating it.—The point is not that all the States initiating slavery would say so, but that all, initiate emancipation; but that while the offer is equally made to all, the more Northern shall, by such initiation, make it certain to the more Southern that, in no event, will the former ever join the latter in their proposed Confederacy. I say initiation, because, in my judgment, gradual and not sudden emancipation is better for all. In the mere financial or pecuniary view, any member of Congress, with the census tables and treasury reports before him, can readily see for himself how very soon the current expenditures of this war would purchase, at fair valuation all the slaves in any named State.

Such a proposition on the part of the general Government sets up no claim of a right, by Federal authority, to interfere with slavery within State limits, requiring, as it does, the absolute control of the subject in each case to the peculiar consideration of the State in which it is proposed as a matter of perfectly free choice. It is proposed as a matter of perfectly free choice with them. In the annual message, last December, I thought fit to say: The Union must be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed. I said this not hastily, but deliberately. War has been made, and continues to be an indispensable means to this end. A practical re-acknowledgment of the national authority would render the war unnecessary, and it would at once come to an end.

If, however, resistance continues, the war must also continue, and it is impossible to foresee all the incidents which may attend, and all the ruin which may follow. Such as may seem indispensable, or may obviously promise great efficiency towards ending the struggle must and will come. The proposition now made is an offer only. I hope it may be esteemed no offer at all, whether the Federal government consented to it or not. It is a view of great responsibility to my God and to my country, I earnestly beg the attention of Congress and the people to the subject.

(Signed.)

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The Iron-Clad Steamer "Virginia."

The Norfolk Day Book has the following complimentary notice of the gentlemen who originated the plan upon which the "Virginia" was built:

To Messrs. Williamson, Chief Engineer, and John L. Porter, Naval Constructor, belong the credit of originating, devising, and carrying out the plan by which the unsightly, black and begrimed monster which the Federal navy converted into the engine of war, which now stands forth to defy the power of the combined navy of the North, and to challenge the admiration of the world.

These gentlemen having been directed by the Hon. Secretary of